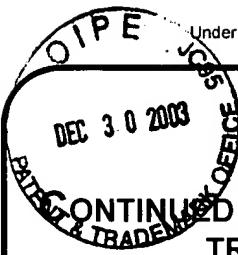


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REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/864,670
Filing Date	May 24, 2001
First Named Inventor	Tetsuo NISHIMOTO et al.
Group Art Unit	2837
Examiner Name	Marlon T. Fletcher
Attorney Docket No.	393032025300

This is a Request for continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a.  Previously submitted

- Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on October 15, 2003 (copy attached)  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
- Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \*
- Other:

b.  Enclosed

- Amendment/Reply
- Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- Other: Petition for two month extension of time

2. Miscellaneous

a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.1039c) for a period of \* months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(l) required)

b.  Other:

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 03-1952. Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17) is attached to this submission in duplicate.

- RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- Other:

b.  Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

c.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Mehran Arjomand	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	48,231
Signature		Date	December 30, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

Express Mail Label No.: EL981959041US Date of Deposit: December 30, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Marco Jimenez

Burden Hours Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

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